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Form PTO-1390 US DEPARTMENT C (Rev. 12-29-99) TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO T	F COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO H 4381 PCT/US
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFF CONCERNING A FILING UND	ICE (DO/EO/US)	us application N 1 0 0 8 9 6 5 1
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO PCT/EP00/09185	international filing date September 20, 2000	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED September 29, 1999
TITLE OF INVENTION METHOD FOR PRODUCIN	G A SHOE	
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Wee FRANKEN		
Applicant herewith submits to the United 9	States Designated/Elected Office (EO/DO/U	JS) the following items and other information:
1. This is a FIRST submission of i	tems concerning a filing under 35 U S.C. 37	71.
2. This is a SECOND or SUBSEC	QUENT submission of items concerning a fil	ing under 35 U S C 371
□ This express request to begin rexamination until the expiration	national examination procedures (35 U S.C of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C.	371(f)) at any time rather than delay . 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39 (1)
4. ■ A proper Demand for Internatio	nal Preliminary Examınation was made by t	the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date
a. ☐ is transmitted herewith be a has been transmitted by	lication as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). (required only if not transmitted by the Inter y the International Bureau. ipplication was filed in the United States Re	
6. ■ A translation of the International A	Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2	(2)).
a. are transmitted herewith have been transmitted l	International Application under PCT Article in (required only if not transmitted by the Inte by the International Bureau owever, the time limit for making such ame id will not be made.	ernational Bureau)
	to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S	C 371(c)(3))
	ntor(s) (35 U S C 371(c)(4)) EXECUTED	
		port under PCT Article 36 (35 U S C 371(c)(5))
Items 11. to 16. below concern other d 11. □ An Information Disclosure Statem	nent under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1 98	
12. An assignment document for reco	ording. A separate cover sheet in complian	ce with 37 CFR 3 28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ■ A FIRST preliminary amendment □ A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT pr	reliminary amendment	
14. ☐ A substitute specification.		
15. ☐ A change of power of attorney an	nd/or address letter.	
16. ☐ Other items or information:		
"Express Mail" mailing label number <u>E</u>	<u>:L 615775180 US</u>	

page 1 of 2

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J.S. Application No. (If known, see 37 CFR 15), INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO PCT/EP00/09185				ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER H 4381 PCT/US			
17.■ The following fees are submitted: BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)): Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO					ATIONS	PTO USE ONLY	
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Independent Claims	/ - 3 =	0	0 X \$84.00	\$	0		
Multiple dependent claims (s)		0	+ \$280.00	\$	0		
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a. A check in the amount	of \$ t	o cover the above fees	is enclosed.				
 b. ■ Please charge my Deposit Account No. <u>01-1250</u> in the amount of <u>\$ 890.00</u> to cover the above fees. A triplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. Order No. <u>02-0169</u>. c. ■ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>01-1250</u>. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137 (a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status. 							
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE	2500 Renai	poration, Law Depl ssance Blvd., Suite		SNATURE:	July 1		
Gulph Mills, PA 19406 Glenn E. J. Murphy NAME ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT 33,539 REGISTRATION NUMBER							

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PATÉNT 80 US Docket H 4381 PCT/US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re: PCT/EP00/09185

International Filing Date:

September 20, 2000

Priority Date:

September 29, 1999

Applicant:

FRANKEN, et al.

Title:

METHOD FOR PRODUCING A SHOE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, DC 20231

Please enter the amendments below before examining this application on the merits:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, insert below the title:

-- CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a U.S. National Stage application under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of International Application No. PCT/EP00/09185, claiming priority under 35 U.S.C. § 365 of PCT/EP00/09185, filed in the European Patent Office September 20, 2000, and under 35 U.S.C. § 119 of DE 199 46 785.4, filed in the German Patent Office September 29, 1999.--

Preliminary Amendment of US National Stage for International Application PCT/EP00/09185 filed September 20, 2000

On page 3, after line 24, insert the heading:

--DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-5 without prejudice and enter new claims 6-12:

- 6. A process for manufacturing a shoe or shoe component, comprising the steps of bonding a surface of an upper and a surface of an outer sole with an adhesive, wherein at least one of the surfaces to be bonded is pretreated before application of the adhesive with a plasma jet under normal pressure.
- 7. The process of claim 6, wherein the plasma jet is linear.
- 8. The process of claim 6, wherein the plasma jet pretreated surface comprises die-cut ethylene/vinyl acetate foam.
- 9. The process of claim 8, wherein the plasma jet pretreated surface comprising die-cut ethylene/vinyl acetate foam is pretreated solely with the plasma jet.
- 10. The process of claim 6, wherein the plasma jet pretreated surface comprises thermoplastic rubber that is optionally preheated before application of the adhesive.

Preliminary Amendment of US National Stage for International Application PCT/EP00/09185 filed September 20, 2000

- 11. The process of claim 10, wherein the plasma jet pretreated surface comprising thermoplastic rubber is pretreated solely with the plasma jet.
- 12. The process of claim 6, wherein the plasma jet pretreated surface comprises injection-molded, foamed ethylene/vinyl acetate that has been roughened or swelled mechanically or with a solvent before treatment with the plasma jet.

REMARKS

Applicants cancel claims 1-5 without prejudice, and enter new claims 6-12. The subject matter of the new claims is described the specification at page 3, line 25 to page 5, line 19, as well as in the original claims. The specification now includes a cross-reference to related applications and headings appropriate to U.S. practice. No new matter has been added.

The new claims better claim the full literal equivalent scope and breadth of subject matter disclosed in the application, notwithstanding applicants' belief that the original claims, drafted for examination in the German and European Patent Offices, would have been allowable but for minor matters of form permitted in German or European practice but objected to in the U.S.P.T.O. The new claims find support in the application independent of the original and therefore are not believed to constitute claims narrowing amendments to the original claims within the holding of Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., No. 95-1066 (Fed. Cir. Nov. 29, 2000).

Preliminary Amendment of US National Stage for International Application PCT/EP00/09185 filed September 20, 2000

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment and examination of the application. If any fees are due to enter this paper that have not been accounted for, please charge Deposit Account No. 01-1250.

Respectfully submitted,

Sienn E.J. Murphy

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Method for Producing a Shoe

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This invention relates to a process for making shoes, more particularly sports shoes (so-called "trainers"), or individual components of shoes in which the components of the shoe, more particularly the upper and the outer sole, are joined together by bonding and at least one of the surfaces to be bonded is pretreated before application of the adhesive.

In shoe production, many individual components of the shoe are joined together by bonding. This applies in particular to trainers which are made solely by bonding. The bonds, more particularly the adhesive bond between the upper and the outer sole, are exposed to severe stressing in use and, accordingly, have to satisfy a number of requirements. Thus, they are expected to withstand strong forces during the use of the shoe and to be thermally stable at temperatures of up to about 80°C. High flexibility and hydrolysis stability, i.e. resistance to rainwater from outside and perspiration from inside, are further requirements.

A number of different plastics are used in modern shoes. Many of them are difficult to bond with the desired adhesives.

With some of the plastics, bondability is also reduced by the additives of which some migrate from the interior to the surface of the plastic and, in doing so, additionally impair bondability. Such additives include lubricants, such as fatty acid amides, or the silicone oils or stearates used as mold release agents in the injection molding process. Another reason for the poor bondability of some plastics is to be found in their nonpolar surfaces when a polar adhesive, such as a polyurethane-based adhesive for example, is to be used. It is clear from these few examples that poor bondability in each of the many combinations of a certain plastic and a certain adhesive can have different causes.

In the prior art, adhesion is improved by pretreating the surfaces to

Express Mail Label No. <u>EU 6/577 5/80 US</u> be bonded before application of the adhesive. To this end, it is known that the surfaces can be manually or automatically roughened with a milling tool or washed with a solvent and that, in addition, a halogenated substance can be applied and, after drying, reacts with the plastic surface and modifies it in such a way that better adhesion is achieved. The application of such a primer has many serious disadvantages. The substances are generally hazardous to health so that personnel have to be appropriately protected at considerable expense. Application, drying and reaction take a long time, require special workplaces and are relatively labor-intensive.

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It is known from French patent application FR 2 692 276 A1 (Bostik) that a solution of a chlorinated polymer containing an organic titanate can be used as primer. After application, the solution is activated by an energy source which may be ultraviolet radiation, an electron gun or a plasma or a corona treatment. This is intended to produce a reaction between the primer and the surface of the plastic to improve its adhesion. A particular example cited in the document in question is the bonding of synthetic rubber or elastomers in the shoe industry. The disadvantage of this process is that it again involves the use of a primer with all the attendant disadvantages as mentioned above. This is because adhesion is not improved by the action of the energy source, but instead by the reaction of the primer with the plastic surface. The energy source merely activates the primer.

It is known that the adhesion of plastic surfaces to be bonded in general can be improved by passing a concentrated plasma jet over the surface (EP 0 761 415 A2, Agrodyn Hochspannungstechnik GmbH). Particular reference is made here to the pretreatment of plastic films. Plastics in general, highly fluorinated polymers, for example PTFE, and metal surfaces, for example aluminium, are mentioned as the surfaces to be treated.

The plasma jet mentioned is produced by blowing a working gas,

more particularly air, through an electric arc at normal temperature and pressure. The so-called plasma jet is obtained as the working gas leaves the arc. It is not certain whether this plasma jet is actually a plasma in the true sense, i.e. a gas split at least partly into ions and electrons. However, it is crucially important that this jet is suitable for the pretreatment of plastic surfaces.

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Instead of the concentrated plasma jet mentioned, which enables the surface to be pretreated at particular spots, a number of circularly arranged plasma jets rotating about the centre of the circle may also be used (**DE 298 05 999 U1**). An annular plasma jet is obtained in this way and may be used to rapidly sweep over and thus pretreat a relatively large surface.

However, if this process is used to bond a typical shoe sole material, i.e. synthetic rubber, adhesion is not significantly improved using the known process so that the earlier pretreatment processes mentioned above have to be applied.

Accordingly, the problem addressed by the present invention was to save steps in the process mentioned at the beginning while keeping investment costs to a minimum and avoiding the use of solvents as far as possible. In addition, only the surface to be bonded would be pretreated in the pretreatment and handling would be simple. The pretreatment process would lend itself to continuous and automated operation. The machinery used would take up little space so that existing production lines could easily be modified.

According to the invention, the solution to the problem stated above is achieved by the process mentioned at the beginning providing a plasma jet is produced under normal pressure and the surface to be bonded is pretreated with the jet. To this end, the plasma jet is directed onto the surface and, in particular, is moved over the surface.

It has surprisingly been found that, with certain sole materials, more

particularly ethylene/vinyl acetate, hereinafter referred to in short as EVA, and thermoplastic rubber, hereinafter referred to in short as TR, such effective pretreatment is possible that there is little, if any, need to use the usual primers. The process according to the invention may be carried out using the plasma jet described in EP 0 761 415 A2 or in DE 298 05 999 U1.

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The linear plasma jet described in DE 298 05 999 U1 is preferably used because, in the pretreatment of outer soles for example, it enables the entire sole surface to be uniformly irradiated without the edges of the sole being pretreated. If, by contrast, a single fixed plasma jet is used, the surface to be bonded is more locally pretreated.

It is also important in the process according to the invention that only the required part of the surface rather than the entire surface of the workpiece is pretreated. This advantage is particularly apparent in the pretreatment of outer soles. Since the side edges of the sole are not pretreated, any excess adhesive on those edges may readily be removed after bonding because the edges of the sole show minimal adhesion. This advantage is particularly important where the adhesive is applied by spraying.

In a particularly preferred embodiment of the invention, the surface of foamed ethylene/vinyl acetate cut from a block ("diecut EVA") is pretreated exclusively with the plasma jet. It has been found that there is no need for an additional treatment with solvents or primers. After the plasma treatment, the adhesive, for example a reactive hotmelt, can still be applied after 14 days without any deterioration in the quality of the bond. In a tear test, failure occurs in the ethylene/vinyl acetate and not in the adhesive.

By contrast, in the prior art, the EVA has to be washed or roughened, treated with a primer and dried. If a hotmelt adhesive is used, the EVA also has to be preheated in a final step. According to the present invention, these steps are now no longer necessary.

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In another preferred embodiment of the invention, the surface of thermoplastic rubber is pretreated solely with the plasma jet and the adhesive is applied to the optionally preheated surface. Preheating of the surface is only necessary where hotmelts are used. Here, the adhesive may be applied immediately after treatment of the surface with the plasma jet because the surface is still warm then. If the adhesive is to be applied later, the surface should be additionally preheated before application. Further pretreatment measures are not necessary.

By contrast, in the prior art, this material has to be treated with a halogenated solvent or a corresponding gas and with a primer containing polyurethane in a solvent.

Finally, in another preferred embodiment, the surface of injection-molded foamed ethylene/vinyl acetate - for the pretreatment - is first roughened mechanically or with a solvent or is made to swell. The surface is then treated with the plasma jet. In this case, the relatively smooth surface has to be partly roughened before the plasma treatment. Organic solvents or alkaline solutions may be used as the solvent. After the plasma treatment, the adhesive, for example the reactive hotmelt, may be applied.

By contrast, in the prior art, the surface has to be washed with a solvent and coated with a UV primer, exposed to UV light and, finally, coated with a primer containing polyurethane in a solvent. According to the invention, no solvent is used and two process steps can be saved.

The invention is illustrated in the following by Examples and Comparison Examples. The process according to the invention was applied to the following exemplary materials, each test being carried out several times.

1 to 3) Various diecut EVA sole materials (manufacturer: Pou Chen) used as middle sole in the manufacture of Nike, Reebok and Adidas trainers.

30 4) TR sole material (standard test material based on

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styrene/butadiene/styrene rubber [SBSR] of the PFI (Prüf- und Forschungsinstitut für die Schuhherstellung e.V.)

5) Foamed injection-molded EVA outer soles (manufacturer: Fu Tai) used in the manufacture of New Balance trainers.

Test specimens 120 mm long and 30 mm wide were diecut from these test materials. The surface of the test specimens was pretreated solely by normal-pressure plasma, i.e. was not subjected to any other pretreatment. The PlasmaTreat® plasma pretreatment system (manufacturer: Agrodyn Hochspannungstechnik GmbH) was used. The treatment was carried out using an RD 1013 rotation unit, an FG 1001 generator and an HTR 2001 high-tension transformer.

Parameters: voltage: 300 V

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current: 11 A

pressure: 2 bar ("working air")

The distance between the surface to be treated and the exit opening of the plasma jet from the RD 1013 rotation unit was 10 mm. Only in the case of the injection-moulded foamed EVA materials was the surface additionally roughened by abrasion before the plasma treatment in another test.

The test bonding of these pretreated materials was carried out to DIN ES (European Standard) 522 (adhesives for leather and shoe materials, strength of the bonds) and DIN ES 1392 (Solvent-based and dispersion adhesives, tests for measuring the strength of bonds under defined conditions) against test leather (double chrome leather standard test material of the Satra Institute). The adhesive used was Macroplast QR 8116 (Henkel KGaA), a reactive polyurethane hotmelt specially developed for bonding soles). This adhesive was applied to the entire surface of the substrates from a slot die, the surface temperature being ca. 60°C, and

was activated, set and pressed to ES 1392.

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Bond strength was tested by carrying out peel tests using a PFI tensile tester. To this end, the above-mentioned bonds were clamped in the tester and pulled apart at an angle of 180° and at a speed of 100 mm/min. The forces required for separating the bond in the peel tests were recorded and averaged after the measurement.

The results are set out in the following Table:

No.	Material	Pretreatment	Peel Force	Failure Pattern
1)	Diecut EVA (Nike)	None ·	< 1 N/mm	Adhesion failure
		Plasma	3.5 N/mm	EVA failure
2)	Diecut EVA (Reebok)	None	< 1 N/mm	Adhesion failure
		Plasma	4 N/mm	EVA failure
3)	Diecut EVA (Adidas)	None	< 1 N/mm	Adhesion failure
		Plasma	3.5 N/mm	EVA failure
4)	TR (PFI test material)	None	1.5 N/mm	Adhesion failure
		Plasma	8-11 N/mm	TR failure
5)	Foamed EVA (New Balance)	None	< 1 N/mm	Adhesion failure
		Plasma	1 N/mm	Adhesion failure
		Roughened + plasma	3.5 N/mm	EVA failure

CLAIMS

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- 1. A process for making shoes, more particularly trainers, or individual components of shoes in which the components of the shoe, more particularly the upper and the outer sole, are joined together by bonding and at least one of the surfaces to be bonded is pretreated before application of the adhesive, characterized in that a plasma jet is produced under normal pressure and the surface to be bonded is pretreated with the jet.
- A process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a linear
 plasma jet is used.
 - 3. A process as claimed in any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the surface of foamed ethylene/vinyl acetate cut from a block ("diecut EVA") is pretreated solely with the plasma jet.
- 4. A process as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the surface of thermoplastic rubber is pretreated solely with the plasma jet and the adhesive is applied to the optionally preheated surface.
 - 5. A process as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that, for pretreatment, the surface of injection-molded foamed ethylene/vinyl acetate is first roughened mechanically or with a solvent or is made to swell and is then treated with the plasma jet.





(12) NACH DEM VERTRAG ÜBER DIE INTERNATIONALE ZUSAMMENARBEIT AUF DEM GEBIET DES PATENTWESENS (PCT) VERÖFFENTLICHTE INTERNATIONALE ANMELDUNG

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199 46 785.4 29. September 1999 (29.09.1999) DE

(71) Anmelder (für alle Bestimmungsstaaten mit Ausnahme von US): HENKEL KOMMANDITGESELLSCHAFT AUF AKTIEN [DE/DE]; Henkelstrasse 67, 40589 Düsseldorf

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(81) Bestimmungsstaaten (national): BR, CA, JP, MX, TR, US.

(84) Bestimmungsstaaten (regional): europäisches Patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).

Veröffentlicht:

Mit internationalem Recherchenbericht.

Zur Erklarung der Zweibuchstaben-Codes, und der anderen Abkürzungen wird auf die Erklärungen ("Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations") am Anfang jeder regulären Ausgabe der PCT-Gazette verwiesen.

(54) Title: METHOD FOR PRODUCING A SHOE

(54) Bezeichnung: VERFAHREN ZUM HERSTELLEN EINES SCHUHS

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a method for producing a shoe or individual components of a shoe. According to the inventive method, the components of the shoe are glued together, pre-treating at least one of the surfaces to be glued before applying the adhesive. To this end, a plasma jet is produced under normal pressure and pre-treats the surface to be glued with said plasma jet. The invention provides a means for reducing, at low investment costs, the number of production steps required for producing shoes and, as far as possible, does not utilize solvents. During the pre-treatment only the surface to be glued is pre-treated and the method is easy to perform. The pre-treatment method is carried out in a continuous and automated manner.

(57) Zusammenfassung: In einem Verfahren zum Herstellen eines Schuhs oder einzelner Komponenten eines Schuhs verbindet man die Komponenten des Schuhs durch Kleben miteinander, wobei man mindestens eine der zu verklebenden Oberflächen vor dem Auftragen des Klebstoffs vorbehandelt. Dazu erzeugt man unter Normaldruck einen Plasmastrahl, mit dem man die zu verklebende Oberfläche vorbehandelt. Es werden Arbeitsschritte eingespart, wobei nur geringe Investitionskosten notwendig sind und nach Möglichkeit lösungsmittelfrei gearbeitet wird. Bei der Vorbehandlung werden ausschließlich die zu verklebende Oberfläche vorbehandelt, wobei die Handhabung einfach ist. Das Verfahren zur Vorbehandlung kann kontinuierlich und automatisiert durchgeführt werden.

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of the subject matter which is claim METHOD FOR PRO the specification of which							
is attached hereto							
OR was filed on (MM/DD/YY)	9/20/2000	as United S	States Application N	umber or PCT International			
Application Number PCT/EP00	/09185 and was am	nended on (MM/DD/YYYY)		(if applicable)			
I hereby state that I have reviewed a amendment specifically referred to a	and understand the contents of the at above	bove identified specification, inc	luding the claims, as	s amended by any			
I acknowledge the duty to disclose i	nformation which is material to paten	itability as defined in Title 37 Co	de of Federal Regul	ations, § 1 56			
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Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached? YES NO			
199 46 785.4	Germany	9/29/1999		X			
Additional foreign application i	numbers are listed on a supplementa	al priority sheet attached hereto					
	e 35, United States Code §119(e) of		pplication(s) listed b				
Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)		application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority sheet attached here	<i>i</i> .			

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1—	ney(s) and/or agent(s)	name and regi	stration numb	er below							
	Name		Registration Number		Name			:		Registration Number	
Glenn E. J. Murphy Stephen D. Harper Kimberly R. Hild Steven C Bauman			33,539 33,243 39,224 33,832					-			
Additional	attorney(s) and/or ag	ent(s) named o	n a suppleme	ental shee	t attached	f hereto			T	'	
Please direct a to:	Il correspondence	X Custome Number	or labe	el		00423		OR 3	Fill in corre	espondence elow	
Name	Glenn E J. M	lurphy									
Address	Henkel Corpo	oration									
Address	2500 Renaiss	sance Blvd,	Suite 200								
City	Gulph Mills				State	PA			Zip	19406	
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Additi	onal inventors are I	being named	on supplen	nental sh	eet(s) at	tached he	reto				